United Nations S/2000/843

Security Council

Distr.: General
31 August 2000

Original: English

Letter dated 31 August 2000 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the Permanent Mission of Yugoslavia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have been instructed by my Government to lodge a protest at the recent escalation of ethnic Albanian terror and violence and the concomitant actions of the international presences in Kosovo and Metohija, the autonomous province of the Yugoslav constituent Republic of Serbia.

Aided and abetted by the actions of the Kosovo Force (KFOR) and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and the passivity of the Security Council, ethnic Albanian terror and violence have increased dramatically. Emboldened, terrorists increasingly target the most vulnerable, children and the elderly, and the symbols of a people's bond to the land, institutions, churches and cemeteries.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia has warned on a number of occasions that the announcement of local elections in Kosovo and Metohija for the coming autumn, the seizure of the "Trepca" Smelter Corporation, the opening of foreign liaison offices without approval by the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the continued refusal of UNMIK and KFOR to cooperate with the official Yugoslav authorities and their lack of resolve to come to grips with ethnic Albanian terror and violence can be understood in no other way, but as an open collaboration of the international presences with ethnic Albanian terrorist separatists. In a flagrant violation of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) of 10 June 1999, their actions have gone a long way to render one of its main goals, a multi-ethnic Kosovo and Metohija, unachievable.

All along, the ethnic Albanian campaign of terror and violence has been in the ascendant. The offices of the Committee of the Government of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia for Cooperation with UNMIK have been bombed in a blatant demonstration of arrogance and a ruthless drive to intimidate and cleanse the remaining Serbs and other non-Albanians.

Particularly gruesome are the atrocities committed against Serbian children of Kosovo and Metohija. Six children, 10 years of age or younger, were seriously wounded in the village of Resnik last April in a bomb blast, while, in addition to 3 adults, ethnic Albanian terrorist Afrim Zeqiri killed 4-year-old Milos Petrovic in the village of Cernica last May.

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In the village of Crkvene Vodice on 12 August 2000, as yet unidentified ethnic Albanian terrorists threw a bomb at a group of 10 Serbian children, aged 5 to 15, as they played ball a mere 100 yards away from a KFOR checkpoint. Six children were seriously wounded. Six cars were damaged, which attests to the severity of the blast.

An Albanian driver "accidentally" ran into six Serbian children, aged 8 to 16, in the village of Skulamovo. Eight-year-old Nikola Nikolic was killed and five other children were injured.

The reaction of the international presences to the atrocities committed against the Serbian ethnic community is not only inadequate, it is often cynical. Instead of making every effort to apprehend the perpetrators, KFOR and UNMIK police bear down on Serbs. In each specified case, they took a threatening attitude towards the distressed Serbs who had run to the scene. Particularly galling in the circumstances were the expressions of condolences of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Head of UNMIK. Although aware of the atrocities, the Security Council has remained mute.

The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia calls on the Security Council to take urgent measures to put an end to the new wave of ethnic Albanian terrorism, emboldened in no small measure by the latest actions of international presences. Otherwise, it must suspend the United Nations mission, which has been responsible for the development of a disastrous situation in this Serbian province.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Vladislav **Jovanovic**
Chargé d'affaires a.i.